

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of October 5, 2005 has been received and contents carefully reviewed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-6 and 10.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 and add new claim 18. Claims 2, 7-9 and 11-17 are withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,799,057). The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 as amended is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...one of the blocks comprising: a first start pulse input terminal for receiving an output signal of a previous block; and a second start pulse input terminal for receiving an output signal of a next block." Because Takeda et al. fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 18 as amended is allowable over the cited references in that claim 18 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...a bi-directional data driver having a plurality of blocks for driving the plurality of data lines, each block including a first start pulse input terminal for receiving one of a start pulse and an output signal of a previous block, and a second start pulse input terminal for receiving one of the start pulse and an output signal of a next block." None of the cited references fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 is allowable.

Applicants believe this application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the

telephone number (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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